RESOLUTION No. 2.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: I don't move my resolution, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Especially when federal matters are under discussion, it will be embarassing the Government if Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar had moved his resolution for discussion. On behalf of the House as well as Government, let me thank the Honourable member for not moving his resolution.

Working hours of the Arrack and Toddy shops.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I move the following resolution:

"This Assembly recommends to Government that the working hours of the Arrack and Toddy shops should be shortened from 9 P. M. to 6 P. M."

I do not think any argument is necessary on my part to convince the House of the necessity for introducing a scheme by which th drink evil could be reduced. The demand I have raised in the resolution is a moderate one. The labourers after returning from the workshop visit the toddy shops first and then only return home. There should be no scope for them to visit the toddy shops after their labour hours. This is my first point.

PRESIDENT: According to the terms of the resolution, does the member want a labourer to visit the toddy shop during its working hours?

MR. N. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: I do not hear the question. As I said, a labourer visits the toddy shop after his work and spends all the money in his possession. When he returns home, his family gets no money. There is actual starvation in his house. Generally, a labourer returns home at 9 p. m. Before he comes, his family would have got the necessary vegetables and cooked food for him. Instead of the food, he drinks toddy and returns home at 11 or 12 in midnight. That is the situation.

Secondly, a labourer after his drink, commits public nuisance. In day time, there is no such thing ordinarily. During night, the labourers abuse all sorts of respectable persons and thus spend their days. A question might be asked whether complaints on this account could not be lodged with the Police for due action. That could be done. But there is one difficulty. In rural parts, unfortunately, it is the Police Officer who drinks and causes abuse on respectable men in the locality. I am sorry to find that the Inspector General of Police is not here at the moment. Anyway, that is what happens in rural areas. The very persons who ought to check public nuisance commit nuisance regularly. This state of affairs should be put a stop to immediately. That could be done only by reducing the working hours from 9. p. m. to 6 p m. In Bombay and its suburbs the Congress Government are doing all they can to stop the drink evil. Enormous

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